CD-87

(1)

Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed

Field	New Orleans	FILE NO.	CD-7-34,039
INVESTIGATION MADE AT	PERIOD COVERED	Lee Harvey Oswald	
New Orleans, La.	November 24-29, 1963	Assassination of President John F. Kennedy	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY			
Special Agent Anthony E. Gerrots Special Agent In Charge John W. Rice			

SYNOPSIS

Investigation disclosed that information furnished by Jack S. Martin to the effect that David William Ferrie associated with Lee Harvey Oswald at New Orleans and trained Oswald in the use of a rifle with a telescopic lense, also that Ferrie had visited Dallas several weeks prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is without foundation. Jack S. Martin, who has the appearance of being an alcoholic, has the reputation locally of furnishing incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

At 5:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 Donald Mitchell, 1501½ General Taylor St., New Orleans (rear basement apartment), called at the office and was interviewed by reporting agent. Mr. Mitchell stated that he shares this apartment with one J. Philip Stein, a/k/a "Jerry". Mr. Mitchell advised also that the telephone in this apartment is in the name of Herman S. Kohlman, Assistant District Attorney, Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, La., for the reason that Mr. Kohlman formerly shared the apartment with J. Philip Stein but that Kohlman recently married and moved from the apartment. The telephone number in question is TWinbrook 1-8703.

During the interview with Mr. Mitchell he stated that some

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time during the afternoon of Sunday 11-24-63 Jerry Stein answered the telephone in their apartment; that the person calling was endeavoring to contact Herman S. Kohlman, explaining to Stein that the reason he was trying to get in touch with Kohlman was that Kohlman had written a story about an individual known as "FARRY"; that "FARRY" was a hypnotist and had either taught or had something to do with Oswald being taught how to use rifles with telescopic lenses, also indicating that "FARRY" had a collection of rifles. The caller also informed Stein that "FARRY" had been in Dallas about two weeks prior to 11-24-63 and that "FARRY" had been corresponding with Oswald. According to Mr. Mitchell, the person making this telephone call said his name was "JACK" - no last name given.

Subsequent to the interview with Donald Mitchell, several attempts were made to contact Herman S. Kohlman.

At 11:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 a telephone call was received from J. Philip Stein. He said he did not know "Jack's" last name. He stated that the FBI had been investigating "FARRY" several weeks prior to 11-24-63; that "FARRY" is said to be an airplane pilot and allegedly has flown supplies to Cuba. Stein stated that "Jack" told him that "FARRY" was said to have been in Dallas several weeks previously; further, that "FARRY" is allegedly a homosexual. Stein stated that he was told by "Jack" that "FARRY" has been training some Civil Air Patrol boys in the use of foreign made arms and allegedly trained Oswald in the use of a rifle.

Stein stated that "FARRY" is said to be rather intelligent; that he allegedly has a PHD degree and is a hypnotist. He said that Herman S. Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had written a story about "FARRY" about two years ago and that the story had appeared in "The Times-Picayune", a New Orleans morning newspaper. Stein stated that, according to "Jack", "FARRY" is alleged to have been communicating with Oswald and that both were allegedly engaged in the same type of work. He said that "FARRY" was believed to be living in the Louisiana Avenue Parkway area, New Orleans.

At 11:10 p.m. on 11-24-63 reporting agent received a telephone call from Herman S. Kohlman. He said that he was an Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans and that he was calling from the District Attorney's office. It was apparent that Mr. Kohlman was reluctant to talk about "FARRY". He finally stated, however, that the District Attorney's office was conducting an investigation on their own with regard to "FARRY"; that "FARRY" is actually David Ferrie (W; M; 42; 195; 5-11; wears a wig, having suffered loss of hair in blotches). He said that Ferrie has a record at the New Orleans Police Dept. Bureau of Identification;

that he had been arrested several times and charged with moral offenses involving young boys. He said that Ferrie at one time lived on Atherton Drive in Metairie, La., a suburb of New Orleans. Mr. Kohlman stated that at the time of his telephone conversation with me his office had ten Police Officers (investigators for the District Attorney's office) scouring the city for David Ferrie and that in the event Ferrie was picked up he would notify me. (No request was made of Mr. Kohlman that Ferrie be picked up and held for this Service).

At 12:35 a.m. on 11-25-63 Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman telephoned the reporting agent at his residence, at which time he advised that he had received information to the effect that David William Ferrie had left for Dallas on Friday 11-22-63 during the afternoon, travelling in a light blue Comet. He also advised that Ferrie reportedly had a plane and may still have it. He said that at the time of his telephone conversation with me Ferrie was allegedly on his way back to New Orleans.

Mr. Kohlman stated that it was his information that Harvey Lee Oswald was in Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol group in New Orleans some years ago; that Ferrie allegedly had a fraudulent charter and that the Civil Aeronautics Board checked on it.

When pressed for the full name of the informant thus far referred to only as "Jack", Mr. Kohlman stated that he was "just a fellow who worked around the Police Headquarters building" and that "Jack" did not want to become involved in this investigation and for that reason did not want his name mentioned in any way. Mr. Kohlman was informed that "Jack" would have to be interviewed in person by representatives of this Service.

During the late afternoon of 11-25-63 SAIC Rice received a telephone call from Herman S. Kohlman, advising that David Ferrie had been picked up by representatives of the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office and that he was being questioned in the District Attorney's office at that time. Mr. Kohlman informed SAIC Rice that Ferrie would shortly be brought to the First District Police Station, where he would be booked.

At approximately 7:00 p.m. on 11-25-63 SAIC Rice and reporting agent interviewed David William Ferrie (W; M; 46 - DOB 3-18-18 at Cleveland, Ohio; 5-11; 190; ruddy complexion; brown eyes; wears dark brown kinky wig with a reddish tint; false upper teeth; resides at 3330 Louisiana Avenue Parkway, New Orleans. Former address: 331 Atherton Drive, Metairie, La. Ferrie stated that he had lived at 17302 Lavorne and at 6801 Pear Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio).

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David William Ferrie stated that when he was employed by Eastern Air Lines he flew mostly to Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Brownsville and various intermediate points; that he some times flew to New York via Atlanta and Washington.

Ferrie insisted that he was in New Orleans on Thursday, November 21, 1963 and on Friday, November 22, 1963, until about 9:00 p.m. He said that he is positive that he was in New Orleans on the dates mentioned because he had been in Court in connection with a trial involving Carlos Marcello. He said that he departed New Orleans about 9:00 p.m. on 11-22-63 and drove to Houston and Galveston, Texas, with two companions, Alvin Beaubouef, about 19 or 20 years old, of 2427 Alvar St., New Orleans, and Melvin Coffey, about 26 to 28 years old, 618 N. Pierce St., New Orleans; that he was driving a 1961 blue Comet 4-door Station Wagon with 1963 Louisiana license, having bought the car from Delta Mercury, Inc., 2201 Canal St., New Orleans, about three or four weeks previously - Charles Graham, Salesman.

Ferrie stated that he and his two companions mentioned above returned to New Orleans about 9:30 p.m. on 11-24-63; that he telephoned Attorney G. Wray Gill (by whom he is employed as an Investigator) several times; that at Gill's suggestion he left New Orleans about midnight that same date and drove to Hammond, La., alone, where he stayed at the Holloway Smith Hall on Sycamore Street, at the Southeastern Louisiana College, where he has a friend, Thomas Compton, who does research in narcotics addiction under a Doctor Nichols, under a Federal grant. He said he left Hammond about 1:00 p.m. on 11-25-63 and arrived New Orleans about 3:00 p.m.; that immediately upon arriving at New Orleans he contacted Attorney Gill, who accompanied him to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office, where he was wanted for questioning in connection with the Oswald case.

During the interview with Ferrie by SAIC Rice and myself he stated that he had left New Orleans on 10-11-63 via Taca Air Lines for Guatemala and had returned via the same line, arriving New Orleans on 10-18-63. He stated that he again left New Orleans on 10-30-63 via Taca Air Lines for Guatemala, returning via the same route, arriving New Orleans on 11-1-63. Ferrie indicated that he had made these trips to Guatemala for Attorney G. Wray Gill and that the trips involved some investigative work having to do with the Carlos Marcello case.

David William Ferrie emphatically denied that he had been in Dallas for about the last eight to ten years.

As the interview with David William Ferrie was about to end he stated that he had a very good idea who had reported him as having associated with Oswald, training him in the use of rifles with telescopic lenses, etc.; that he was firmly convinced that one Jack S. Martin, who resides at the corner of Esplanade Avenue and N. Prieur Street, had made this false report concerning him. He stated that Martin makes a practice of hanging around the offices of various attorneys, Court rooms, etc., and is well known locally for furnishing false leads to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc.

Subsequent to our interview with Ferrie on the night of 11-25-63 he was interviewed by FBI Agents at the First District Police Station.

On 11-26-63 it was learned the FBI Agents had talked with Jack S. Martin, who admitted that he had been the informant with regard to David William Ferrie; that Martin had admitted to FBI Agents that the information which he had furnished Assistant District Attorney Kohlman was a figment of his imagination and that he had made up the story after reading the newspapers and watching television; that he remembered that Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had written an article or story about Ferrie a couple of years ago and that he pieced the whole thing together in his mind and had given it to Kohlman as facts.

On the night of 11-29-63 SAIC Rice and reporting agent interviewed Jack S. Martin at length in his small run-down apartment located at 1311 N. Prieur Street, New Orleans, which he shares with his wife and 6-year old son. Martin, who has every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from "telephonitis" when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking sprees that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about William David Ferrie being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald. He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrie had been his Squadron Commander. Martin stated that Ferrie was well known to him; that he recalled having seen rifles in Ferrie's home and also recalled that Kohlman had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a Marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol. Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind, he had telephoned Herman S. Kohlman and told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination.

In view of the above, this phase of the investigation involving William David Ferrie will be considered closed.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Case remains open at New Orleans pending submission of several additional reports covering investigation thus far conducted, after which the case will be closed here and investigation discontinued in accordance with Chief's instructions.